

was merely an accounting change, the effect was a real cut in support for our school lunch program. The commodities, which will not be purchased under the entitlement authorization, are the ones best suited to meet the menu and nutritional requirements of our school meal programs. The impact of the change was not felt last year or this because Congress yet again passed another statute that correct the error, but only for 2000 and 2001. But our schools will lose more than \$55 million dollars in entitlement commodities in 2002 unless we act to correct the problem. Over the next eight years, this cut will exceed \$440 million. That is a very real and significant cut to our school programs. Make no mistake, this is a school lunch budget cut—this is more than \$55 million per year that schools will not receive. It is also a \$440 million cut in the amount of agricultural commodities purchased by USDA.

I have spoken with several of my colleagues and they share my interest in this matter. After all, this money is used by USDA to purchase agricultural commodities, and these purchases have a significant impact on producer incomes. The magnitude of this cut is even more dramatic when you consider the amount of food that it represents. This cut means that USDA will reduce its overall purchases by 660 million pounds.

One of the best ways we can move forward as a society is to meet our obligations to our children. The Federal Government must follow through on its commitment to work in partnership with states, schools, and the agricultural community to administer a major program designed to improve children's diets and, in turn their overall health and well being. We can be proud that these school meal programs promote the well being of some of our Nation's most vulnerable children by providing them with the nourishment they need to develop healthy bodies and sound minds. Nutritious meals help students reach their full potential by keeping them alert and attentive in the classroom. As both common sense and extensive scientific research confirm, a hungry child cannot focus on schoolwork as well as one who has been fed a nutritious meal.

Mr. Chairman, recognizing the many needs being addressed in this bill, I will withdraw the amendment, but would like to draw attention to how we, the representatives of our pre-school and school age children across America, have neglected them. And in the spirit of National School Lunch Week, which begins the second week of October every year, I would also like to express my interest in working together with members of both the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Education and the Workforce to explore this issue and seek ways to support our nation's pre-school and school age children by providing additional agricultural commodities. Finally, Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with all of my colleagues who share my concern to emend this problem and provide for our pre-school and school age children at home first. Thank you.

IN MEMORY OF SAMANTHA EGAN,  
LISA EGAN, MICHAEL CURTAIN  
AND JOANNE AHLADIOTIS

### HON. FELIX J. GRUCCI, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 5, 2001*

Mr. GRUCCI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of four constituents from the community of Rocky Point in my district who lost their lives at the World Trade Center in the tragic events that occurred there on September 11, 2001.

The tragedy that struck our great nation on the morning of September 11 has been an immense source of sorrow and mourning for our country, touching the lives of nearly every citizen in our country. This is especially so in Rocky Point, where the lives of four alumni of Rocky Point High School High School were taken on that fateful morning. This community will gather together this Sunday, October 7, to celebrate their lives and show their unity as a community.

Samantha Egan, a graduate of Rocky Point High School in 1992, spent much of her time involved in student activities. She played on the soccer, basketball, and softball teams. She was a member of both the Singing Santa's and Leaders Clubs. Samantha was also an adept musician.

Lisa Egan, Samantha's younger sister, was a graduate of the class of 1988, also spent her time studying and playing music. An ambitious young woman, she remained heavily involved in the Peer Leadership Program at her school where she spent much of her time.

Michael Curtain, a graduate of the class of 1975, retrained both the attributes of a scholar and an athlete. Michael occupied his time in the Thespian Society while at the same time holding the office of Vice President of his class. Michael played for the soccer, basketball, and baseball teams. He also involved himself in the Varsity Club. His guidance counselor once reflected upon Michael's career goals, stating, "I hope Mike will be given a chance to attain his goal as a police officer".

Joanne Ahladiotis, a graduate of the class of 1992, was regarded as a well-rounded and dynamic person. Her interests were diverse, ranging from the study of Modern Greek and playing on the field hockey team, to performing in the High School musical and working on the school's yearbook.

Those who lost their lives and those that gave their lives in the line of duty at the World Trade Center have shown themselves to be heroes. Their lives, like the lives of many other Americans that day, are a shining example of what makes this country as great as it is.

I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest sympathies and condolences to the Egan, Curtain and Ahladiotis families, and join the Rocky Point community in honoring the memory of these four young people.

### ECONOMIC STIMULUS AND WORKING FAMILIES

### HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 5, 2001*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the urgent need to provide imme-

diately economic stimulus to this country in the form of a payroll tax rebate for working families.

The United States is facing a crisis, and it is not merely a security crisis. There is a visible, pressing need for economic stimulus and worker relief.

We should move quickly to jumpstart the economy by putting money into the hands of the tax paying lower wage workers that are more likely to spend it immediately.

My bill, the Working Families Tax Rebate Act will do just that.

This bill will provide an immediate payroll tax rebate of up to \$300 to people who didn't benefit from the tax cut signed into law in June.

The dramatic decrease in travel and tourism not only affects those workers employed by the airline industry.

Working men and women in the hospitality industry and service sector are also facing massive layoffs.

These people need immediate help with buying their groceries, preparing for the holidays, and paying their heating bills. Our shop keepers need consumers back in the stores.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3015. Because this country needs economic stimulus now.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 5, 2001*

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber when the following rollcall votes were taken, rollcall vote 336, rollcall vote 337, rollcall vote 349 and rollcall vote 350. I want the record to show that had I been present in this Chamber I would have voted "yea" on each of these rollcall votes.

### VERMONT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT CONGRESSIONAL TOWN MEETING

### HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 5, 2001*

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the outstanding work done by participants in my Student Congressional Town Meeting held this summer. These participants were part of a group of high school students from around Vermont who testified about the concerns they have as teenagers, and about what they would like to see government do regarding these concerns.

I am asking that these statements be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, as I believe that the views of these young persons will benefit my colleagues.

ON BEHALF OF BLAKE KINKAID, CRAIG STEVENS, AND BRITTANY CHANDLER

REGARDING TOBACCO PREVENTION—MAY 7, 2001

CONGRESSMAN SANDERS: Now we are going up to the Northeast Kingdom and the Northeast Kingdom Youth Services. Who is going to begin?

BLAKE KINKAID: Blake Kinkaid.